



# Putting with precision

*New green with highly accurate slope increments allows Ping tour professionals to hone skills and test new clubs.*

**P**ing, the golf equipment manufacturer, wanted a new practice green at its professional demo center in Phoenix, Arizona, which would provide highly accurate slope increments so its tour professionals could hone skills and test new clubs.

ASGCA President Forrest Richardson was appointed for the project and tasked with transforming an area of 8,000

square feet into a putting surface suitable for elite player practice.

Richardson was asked to design the practice green with slopes at various increments between 0 and 2 percent. He was also asked to create a practice bunker with sand that can be easily removed and replaced with another type, for club testing.

“The putting and chipping area must offer a variety of slopes and breaks with surrounding terrain that

approximates real-world chipping conditions,” said Richardson.

“The 350-square-foot bunker is purposefully small and lined with a Better Billy Bunker hard liner so sand can be quickly removed and replaced with any variety needed for specific testing. For example, Augusta ‘white marble’ sand may be in place during the months leading up to the Masters, while different sand types may be installed prior to



Photo: ASGCA President Forrest Richardson



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*The new practice area at Ping's professional demo center in Arizona allows tour professionals to practice shots and test new clubs*

other tournaments. The PermaEdge bunker system helps contain sands from the green surface.”

Richardson’s design also needed to accommodate the robotic Ping Launch Monitor that is housed in

areas when prototype equipment is being demonstrated or tested. Thus, the presence of security fencing had to be considered during the planning of irrigation and controls.”

The project also included detailed



**“The putting and chipping area must offer a variety of slopes and breaks”**

the test building adjacent to the green area. “Safety, relative to this area, was paramount to the design, requiring a layout that allows access to the adjacent practice range while also permitting security to isolate all

GPS slope analysis of the completed green surface so that it is aligned with putting tracking technology, allowing putts to be measured and compared to cross-slope, gradient and green speed metrics. ●

**PING PROVING GROUNDS**

**Location:**  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Golf course architect:**  
ASGCA President  
Forrest Richardson  
[www.golfgroupltd.com](http://www.golfgroupltd.com)

**Project summary:**  
Golf equipment manufacturer Ping tasked ASGCA President Forrest Richardson with the creation of a practice green and bunker at its professional demo center in Arizona, with the required precision to enable tour professionals to hone skills and test new clubs.

**Partners:**  
Wadsworth Golf Construction (construction); Better Billy Bunker (bunker liner); Toro; Ewing Irrigation; Hunter Industries (irrigation); IVI-GOLF (PermaEdge)